

When All is Said.

JULIE K. WETHERILL.

When all is said—when all our words
Of love and pleasure, one by one,
Have taken wings and flown like birds
That seek the southern sun—
Naught shall be changed. The sweet delay
Of April dusks, the rapturous dawn,
The glorious height of golden day,
Shall all go on and on.
The birds shall thrill the rosy bough
With ecstasy of springtide song;
Add in the meadows, then as now,
The grass shall crowd and throng,
There shall be flowers and flowers! to waste
Along the paths where victors trod,
Or where the feasters, singing, haste;
And wreaths to deck the dead.
And, not the less, cool streams shall run
Through secret haunts of woodland gloom;
And I shall smile, as smiles the sun,
On cradle and on tomb.
When all is said, soul of my soul!
Could all be said of love's delight
'Twixt thee and me, tho' time should roll
Beyond earth's day and night:

—ATLANTIC.

The Oriental Monarchies.

ASYRIA AND BABYLONIA.

Asyria is comprised of Mesopotamia and Babylonia. In Mesopotamia ("the land of Shuiar") the scriptures place the building of Babel, the first great city founded after the Deluge, and there occurred the confusion of tongues and the dispersion of races. The Asyrians originally lived in Chaldea, but at an early date removed to the upper course of the Tigris. For six centuries it was the great imperial power of Western Asia.

Among the famous monarchs of the first period were Tigrath Pilsar I., a conquering prince and Asshuridanni (the original of Sardapalus, but wholly unlike that mythic king), to whose time belonged the winged bulls and lions and the sculptured palace-walls which have been dug from the ruins of Calah. The "era of Nabonassar" was 747 B. C. The second period was that of Sennacherib, who made extensive conquests, and was the builder of magnificent structures at Ninevah. This was the golden age of the Asyrian art. The countries included within the limits of Asyria, at the height of its glory, were Babylonia, Mesopotamia, Media, Syria, Phoenecia, a large part of Palestine, Arabia and Egypt. The Asyrian monarch as "king of kings," compelled the kings of subject states to pay tribute. This paying of tribute greatly increased her wealth and strength, but this great Empire, owing to a constant succession of revolts, wars, subjugations, and deportations of whole populations, and Asyria had no inherent strength. After the 7th century B. C., it began rapidly to fall in pieces.

In the 7th century Babylon made a successful rebellion; and when the Median conqueror Cyaxares led a force against Asyria, he was joined by the Babylonians under Nabopolassar, the Asyrians were overthrown, Nineveh was captured, its splendid palaces and temples were given to the flames, and Asyria fell, never to rise again (625 B. C.)

This Nabopolassar was the father of Nebuchadnezzar,—"the king who ate grass as an ox for a season." The Asyrian genius took mainly the form of art and manufactures. In letters and in science they were behind both the Chaldeans and Egyptians. Architecture was their chief glory. Their sculpture never reached Grecian purity.

In the useful and mechanical arts they had reached great skill. They had transparent glass; constructed tunnels, aqueducts and drains; they used the pulleys, the lever and roller; they understood the arts of inlaying, enameling and overlaying with metals, and in the ordinary arts of life they were 25 centuries ago, on a par with the boasted achievements of the moderns. When Asyria was overthrown by the Medes (625 B. C.) Nabopolassar, who had aided the Medes, received as his share of the spoil the undisputed possession of Babylonia.

This later Babylonian kingdom lasted for 87 years (625-538 B. C.) till overthrown by the new

conquering power of Persia. It would be well here to give some account of the extent of the ancient city of Babylon.

Babylon was a square city at least 5 times as large as London. London is 123 miles square, hence Babylon covered an extent of 615 sq. miles. Can you imagine it? Its walls were 338 ft. high and 85 ft. thick. These walls were studded with towers and pierced with brazen gates. Its palaces and its hanging gardens—a system of terraces in imitation of mountain scenery, formed to please Nebuchadnezzar. Median queen—was among the wonders of the world. Herodotus states that Babylon was taken "amid reveries"—thus confirming the account given in the scriptures of the circumstances of the capture. The fearful hand-writing on the palace wall—Daniel 5:5 verse, and 5 chap. 25-6-7-8 verses. This event occurred 538 B. C.—and the terrible denunciation of the prophet Daniel form a scene too deeply written on our memories to need a repetition here.

The same night the hand-writing was placed on the wall Babylon was taken by the Persians in the 6th century. Asyria and Babylonia became a part of the vast possessions of Alexander The Great. It is now a vast heap of ruins, tenanted by only the beasts and birds that love to haunt solitary places. Rev. 18:2 verse.

WM. F. HOSTETTER.

La Paz, Ind.

(To be continued.)

Review of a Trip in the North.

From "My Northern Travels and Autobiography," by Julia A. Wood, soon to be issued from the Brethren Publishing House. 160 pages, paper 50 cents; cloth, 75 cents; full gilt, \$1.00.

To afford my readers a better understanding of the extent of my travels, I give the miles in detail: Going and returning, traveled, 2946 R. R. miles; 448 carriage miles; 132 sleigh miles; 58 street car miles. Aggregate miles, 3584.

Had 260 carriage rides, including hacks and omnibuses. With few exceptions, all were free. In some instances, I had two or three drives per day. 24 street car rides; nearly all free. Had 62 delightful sleigh rides as long as the snow lasted.

Six months, my railroad fare was paid by good Christian friends. Indeed they treated me as if I were their sister or daughter. In all this, I was made to realize that indeed we were members of the same Christian family. I visited 174 families during my tour; 15 cities 21 large towns and 12 large villages. Mention was not made of some because I only had passing visits through them. All that travelling was accomplished in 9 months and 17 days. Often I was as helpless as a child, had to have much assistance, which kind hearts and ready hands freely proffered to poor me. In it the good Lord signally provided instruments and aid to easily accomplish what I needed. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Truly it is in my heart and mind to this moment.

In my peregrinations, I was the blessed recipient of marked kindness and courtesy. Of course, amongst such a number visited or casually met, some did well, but others exceeded them all.

The most striking portion to me, was the opportunity to "prove all things" in the line of discerning "what manner of spirit ye are of." Thus their every word and daily act tacitly gave me the fruits and index to their *de facto* spiritual caliber. Those unsuspected observations have much weight upon a discerning stranger; and are as often decided upon by acts to others as if it were to the observing.

DISCOURTEOUS EXAMPLES.

As I had the ill luck to meet two impolite and cross people, I shall illustrate and locate. One was a Conductor at Jamestown, N. Y. My traveling friends had just separated from me there, and I walked into the waiting room and got all particulars from the agent concerning the time my next train was due; also procured my ticket and baggage checked.

A short interval and a train drew up. Tap, tap at the ticket office window, and the agent hurriedly said: "I believe I made a mistake, step to the door and ask if that isn't the train you wish." "Yes!" was the gruff response of that Conductor to me. I wish to get on. Said he: "Get on!

where is your baggage? why didn't you have it out here?" His coarse, vehement tone, fairly made me scramble up on the train with fright from such a monster in manner, speech, height and proportions, apparently weighing 300 lbs. or more.

Depend upon it, I was so repulsed by his unjust and discourteous conduct, whenever he passed me on the train my face suddenly turned in the opposite direction. The agent accidentally made the mistake and I had to pay the penalty. What a Conductor! Out of the great numbers traveled with, he was the only rude and unkind one. The rest were specially obliging.

The other discourteous person I saw in the baggage room at Harrisburg, Pa. From Lewistown, Pa., to that city, I had traveled under the care of Mr. Albert Spanogle and his sisters. Here he got off the train and saw me seated in the depot, then again joined the excursion party to Philadelphia.

As I had done at a number of depots, and ever kindly granted elsewhere, I very politely requested a baggage master to allow my large trunk to remain over there until my return, as I would only need my valise. "I don't wish to be bothered with your trunk; and if it is left here and you do not return in a few days, I shall send it off to the general baggage office at Philadelphia!" said he. Without another word to that discourteous, unaccommodating speaker, I at once had my trunk checked along with me out of his clutches.

That made such a decided and unfavorable impression upon me. I could so plainly describe him, (even the color of his hair and skin) travelers might identify him; not to be too personal, I refrain from giving a pen picture of him. By courtesy and kindness, much is accomplished; the opposite repulses and alienates, and are unsuitable characteristics for serving the public.

SPECIAL PROVIDENCE—THE MANNER AND DESIGN.

When I meditate upon the blessings I received along my route, my heart swells with holy love and adoration to that high and mighty One, who is "faithful that promised." No good thing was withheld from me. Dilemmas suddenly came, but as soon they vanished when I lifted the wand of prayer and faith to Jehovah-Jireh.

Yes, He most signally provided special providences in the form of benefits and sweet protection over me. My seeming ill-luck and occasional disappointments, proved to be the avenues to brighter things, for which they were designed, thereby increasing my faith in the goodness, mercy, wisdom and power of that invisible Being, who rules earth, air and sea. With those remarkable and sudden proofs of God's helping hand, I was made to feel in a renewed and stronger way that "verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Savior!"—Isaiah 45:15. I was heartily enabled to say with the inspired Psalmist, that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."—Psalm 46.

"No strength of our own, no goodness we claim;
Yet since we have known the Savior's great name,
In this our strong tower, for safety we hide;
The Lord is our power, 'The Lord will provide.'"

"Trust in Him at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us."

During my travels, these railroad accidents are worthy of mention: As we passed along I once saw a freight train near the track, which had only been wrecked two hours before. Thank God, ours so heavily laden with excursionists, was spared that fate! At another place along where I had travelled a few days prior, there was a shocking railroad collision, caused by a dense fog; neither train was apprised of their contact. A number of passengers were crippled or scalded to death. One week previous, along another road I had travelled, he express train ran down a steep embankment. Indeed I had great cause to thank God for my safe deliverance from all injury or evil, and was enabled to again see that a special providence was over me all the time.

Hoping that my readers may have enough proof from me—one of God's "witnesses" as to His hand and might and that this faithful recital of my travels, (doubtlessly afforded me by special providences from the Author of every good and perfect gift) may result in glory and honor to Him, and that my well-meant efforts may finally yield a fruitful harvest of good, is the devout prayer, and was the sole end and aim of the writer, who is rooted and grounded in the faith, love and knowledge of a crucified Saviour and Redeemer.